

**CLAIMS:**

1. A device for reading and/or writing information from/onto an optical information carrier (1), comprising

read means including imaging means (21, 22, 23) for imaging a radiation beam (24) so as to form a scanning spot (11) by means of which the information carrier (1) is scanned, and including detection means (26) for generating a read signal ( $S_{LS}$ ) which is indicative of the intensity of the radiation reflected from the information carrier (1) at the location of the scanning spot (11),

which device has an information transfer mode, in which the scanning spot (11) is moved in a first direction (R1) with respect to the information carrier (1),

which device has a displacement mode, in which the scanning spot (11) is moved in a second direction (R2) transverse to the first direction,

control means (40, 41) for controlling the imaging means (21, 22, 23) in response to a measurement signal (FE) which is indicative of the degree of focusing of the radiation beam (24) at the location of the scanning spot (11), which control means include sample and hold means (40) for sampling and holding the measurement signal (FE) in response to a sample signal ( $S_{CNTRL}$ ),

characterized in that  
the sample signal ( $S_{CNTRL}$ ) causes the measurement signal (FE) to be sampled when said intensity is comparatively high.

2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, the device further including means (72) for measuring the time during which the measurement signal is held and means (73, 74, 75) for causing the measurement signal to be sampled when the time exceeds a predetermined value ( $T_{REF}$ ).